



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE BIBLICAL WORLD

VOLUME XXXIX

APRIL, 1912

NUMBER 4

Editorial

THIRTY YEARS OF BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP

It is thirty years ago this month that there appeared the first number of the *Hebrew Student*. William R. Harper, then just coming into notice as an enthusiastic and effective teacher of Hebrew, was the originator and editor of the new journal. Of the *Hebrew Student*, both the *Biblical World* and the *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures* are continuations. Looking back upon it from a distance of thirty years, we can see that the time was one of special activity and interest in biblical study in America. The Revised Version of the New Testament and the Westcott and Hort Greek Testament had been published in 1881. Work on the Revised Version of the Old Testament was moving forward to its publication in 1885. The Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis had been organized in 1880 and was exercising a stimulating influence on the development of biblical studies. It is but just to associate with these events the beginning of Dr. Harper's work at Morgan Park and the establishment of the *Hebrew Student*, for through his journal and his teaching he was destined to be for a quarter of a century one of the potent forces in the field of biblical study in America. Nor is it perhaps an exaggeration of the significance of all these events taken together, if from about the year 1881 we date the modern period of biblical scholarship in America.

Elsewhere in this issue Professor Milton S. Terry gives our readers an account of the men who at that time were most active in promoting biblical study, and Professor Henry Preserved Smith



THE LATE PRESIDENT WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER

sketches the progress of biblical scholarship in the last thirty years. These articles bring forcibly home to us the fact that notable changes of opinion have taken place within a generation, not only in the field of Old Testament study with which Professor Smith chiefly deals, but in that of the New Testament also. Views then scarcely dreamed of as possible have now become common, and many things then felt to be vital have fallen into the background or been forgotten. The phrase that more nearly than any other describes the change comprehensively is the substitution of the historical for the dogmatic point of view. This change, certain to come sooner or later, if theology was not to be divorced from the onward-moving intellectual life of the race, has already proved itself not a loss but a gain to religion.

What the next thirty years may bring forth, who can forecast? Notable changes in all probability; but scarcely, one can but think, more notable than those which have taken place since Dr. Harper issued the first number of the *Hebrew Student*.

